

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATIONS

Wings across the Ings HLF Project

A project to create a new wetlands (the Wombwell Wetlands Extension Scheme) in the Dearne valley near Barnsley, Yorkshire with benefits for biodiversity, interpretation of and involvement in local heritage by people, and flood risk management.

The Garganey Trust was formed in 1998 to secure the future of Broomhill Flash, a special place for wildlife and people in the Dearne Valley of Yorkshire. Its aims are to promote the conservation of the heritage, especially Yorkshire's biodiversity and in particular to manage Broomhill Flash, and to provide access, education, demonstration and research opportunities for learning about biodiversity. In addition to Broomhill Flash it manages three further sites at Clegg's Meadow, Denby Delf and Thunderbridge. The trust has a track record of stakeholder engagement and partnership building in the region. This experience has been utilised in the development of the WATI and Doveside schemes. The following document outlines the key stages of this process.

1. BROAD CONSULTATION ABOUT THE PROJECT WITH A RANGE OF LOCAL GROUPS AS PART OF THE SUBMISSION TO THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

1. As part of the development stage of the project, advice and guidance was sought from a range of people with expertise, experience and local networks in projects involving the local community, education and volunteers.
2. Two workshops were held at the RSPB Old Moor centre using room hire facilities, with a wide range of invitees.
3. A further piece of work was commissioned from Dave Wilde, Dearne Valley GH NIA Eco-skills Programme Education Adviser focused on how to engage local primary and secondary schools, and Dearne Valley College.
4. Contact was made directly with Mr Tom Oates, Netherwood Academy, where the Geography department is interested in being involved in the project to assist its B.Tech. course as well as geography modules.

Workshops

Two workshops were held to explain the project to different local experts and contacts and seek their guidance and involvement. The workshops held on 19 January 2015 and 11 February 2015 covered the same agenda and topics generated much interest and reaction. Delegates were drawn from groups involved in the development of the partnerships of the Dearne Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA) initiative and the Dearne Landscape Partnership initiative.

Present:

Jeff Lunn	Garganey Trust	Workshop 1 and 2
Pete Wall	Dearne NIA project Manager	Workshop 1
Dave Wilde	Dearne Eco-skills project	Workshop 1
Dan Wildsmith	Volunteer Action Barnsley	Workshop 1
Richard King	Dearne Landscape Partnership PM	Workshop 1
Russell Boland	Environment officer Barnsley MBC	Workshop 1
Susan Booth	Natural England	Workshop 1
Joy Bretton	Wombwell Woods Society	Workshop 2
Kris Craik	(former) Stone to Steel Project & South Yorkshire Forest	Workshop 2
Matthew Capper	RSPB Reserves Manager	Workshop 2

2. CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS

A meeting was held with the Wombwell/Darfield/Houghton/Hemingfield Cluster Group on 7th July 2015 at Netherwood Academy

In attendance:

- Tom Oates, Callum and Mason from Netherwood Academy
- Nicola Oldknow, Lauren Conway, Jack and Alysha from Kings Oak Primary;
- Jeff Lunn from the Garganey Trust;
- Dave Wilde.

The WATI project was described and the discussion took place about the potential involvement of the schools once the project was up and running.

3. CONSULTATION ABOUT THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE TRAVELLER'S SITE, INGS ROAD, WOMBWELL

Pete Wall met with Archie Smith Senior (pictured outside his home in plot 4 in a series of photographs which can be made available) and his son, also called Archie at 10.00 am on 13/07/15. The following is Mr Wall's summary of the meeting:

We discussed the diversion of Bulling Dyke and moving it away from the site. Archie Junior is the spokesman for this settlement and said that they had been flooded in 2017 and again in 2013 but not as severely, both times from Bulling Dyke.

They were very positive about the scheme. Archie Junior did however point out that the "fishing pool" to the immediate west of the site (in top picture) drained in to Bulling dyke and that this would flood the site in high rainfall if the exit ditch and culvert was blocked by the new bund.

I looked at the ditch and culvert under the Ings road and can see his point. It may be necessary to extend the pipe from the fishing pond to the new course of the Bulling dyke under the proposed new bund and put a gravity flap on the end of it to stop back flow to the fishing pond in extreme events on Bulling Dyke.

I then photographed the dwellings as I explained I needed this to illustrate the properties our scheme would protect. The travellers current dwellings do not match the aerial photos available as the size of the plots and the number of dwellings can alter according to who is occupying the site. The dwellings are semi-permanent, however there have been some changes in the footprint due to some of the residents moving site to Brierley a few miles away as they have purchased a nice walled site there.

4. CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL COUNCILLORS

On 1 December 2016 Jeff Lunn met with Councillors Dorothy Coates, Caroline Saunders and Pauline Markham at Darfield library and presented the WATI project to them.

5. LETTER DROP

The attached letter/information sheet were delivered to local residents in Darfield in July 2017 informing them of the revised scheme which now included the Doveside scheme.

6. PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT DARFIELD LIBRARY

A public consultation event was held at Darfield Library on Thursday 3 August 2017. Attendees from the project included Alex Jones (JBA), Andrew Virtue (Environment Agency), Jeff Lunn (Garganey Trust), Trevor Mayne and Russ Boland (Barnsley MBC), Councillor Dorothy Coates. Around 15 local residents attended the meeting.

The overwhelming majority of people at the meeting supported the project with some very positive comments received e.g. Mr Chris Needham of Edderthorpe Lane Darfield commented that the scheme would bring great benefits to the area and he couldn't wait for it to happen.

Two local residents however voiced their concerns about the Doveside part of the project. Their concerns appeared to centre around the potential of flooding to their homes. Members of the team provided technical explanations of the results of the flood risk assessment (which indicate the scheme will have negligible impact on flood risk), however this did not provide reassurance.

7. FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON SITE AT DOVESIDE

As a result of the public consultation event at Darfield Library, a further site meeting was held at Doveside on Friday 15th September 2017. A number of local residents attended and the Doveside scheme was explained and described in detail on the ground.

Barry Travil and Alan Davies, who are local residents, and had been the most activity concerned attendees at the Darfield Library event, attended the site visit and their concerns discussed.

As a result of the visit, one aspect of the scheme was revised, which was to replace the proposed fixed weir on the outfall ditch with a 'stop-log' arrangement which would allow a more flexible control to the egress of water from the site.